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LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text, in French and English, of a declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the European Community and its member States at Brussels on 11 May 1992.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard P. H. P. MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the United
Kingdom to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English/French]

Declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Community and its member States, following with great concern the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, restate that a political solution can only be based on the principles established in the constitutional talks between Serbs, Croats and Muslims sponsored by the peace conference.

The consistent deterioration of the security situation, however, renders progress in those talks increasingly uncertain and casts doubts on the viability of any agreement to be reached in them.

Although all parties have contributed, in their own way, to the present state of affairs, by far the greatest share of the blame falls on the JNA and the authorities in Belgrade which are in control of the Army, both directly and indirectly by supporting Serbian irregulars. The killings and expulsion of populations in Bijeljina, Zvornik, Foca and other towns and villages, the siege and systematic shelling of Sarajevo, the holding of Sarajevo Airport preventing even the safe passage of humanitarian relief from the ICRC are actions deserving universal condemnation.

The Community and its member States demand:

- The complete withdrawal of the JNA and its armaments from Bosnia and Herzegovina or the disbandment of its forces and the placing of its armaments under effective international monitoring;

- The reopening of Sarajevo Airport under conditions of safety, allowing for the urgently needed humanitarian aid to be distributed.

The Community and its member States also request from the authorities in Belgrade to commit themselves to:

- Respect for the integrity of all borders of all republics;

- Respect for the rights of minorities and national or ethnic groups, including Kosovo and Vojvodina, in accordance with the Carrington draft convention;

- Promote the conclusion of an agreement on a special status for Krajina ensuring respect of the territorial integrity of Croatia;

- Fully cooperate with all parties at the conference for settling the question of State succession.

The Community and its member States furthermore decided to:

- Recall their ambassadors in Belgrade for consultations;

- Demand the suspension of the delegation of Yugoslavia at the CSCE from taking part in the proceedings for the present. The situation will be reviewed on 29 June;

- Further pursue, should the situation remain unchanged, the increasing isolation of the Yugoslav delegation in international fora, bearing in mind, in particular, the impending OECD ministerial meeting;

- Ask the Commission to study the modalities of possible economic sanctions.

The Community and its member States call upon the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to cooperate fully in the orderly withdrawal of the JNA. Together with that withdrawal a phased demobilization of territorial defence forces must take place. They urge the Government of Croatia to do all in their power to prevent an incursion into Bosnia and Herzegovina of military and paramilitary forces as well as the smuggling of weapons.

The Community and its member States will keep the situation under review, in particular as far as the demands to the authorities in Belgrade are concerned. Failure to comply with the above will be taken into account when considering the question of recognition of the new federal entity on which Lord Carrington and the Arbitration Commission have been asked for advice.